

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
January 10, 2013

Present: Knox (chair), Coughlin, Roberts, Walton (staff), Hultgren (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes of the November 8, 2012 meeting were accepted.

The committee reviewed the list of roads and the map that show which portions of roads have been adopted for litter collection. Mansfield City Road, Clover Mill Road, Spring Hill Road and Pleasant Valley Road were identified as roads that could use volunteer help. For Rid Litter Day, Knox volunteered to recruit groups of Adopt A Road volunteers to work together on one of the priority roads. It was also suggested that the Girl Scouts be recruited to help. Staff will find out when spring weekend is scheduled and arrange Rid Litter Day on the Saturday immediately after.

At the last meeting the committee reviewed staff recommendations for multi-family trash and recycling service up to four times per week. Since then Oaks on the Square Apartments has requested even more frequent trash service. The committee reviewed the pricing for trash collected five times a week at \$1,473.00 per month and recommended that a rate also be set for six times per week using the same methodology as the other rates. Walton is working with Willimantic Waste Paper and Oaks on the Square to find a better way to handle the volume of trash that is coming out of the restaurants, particularly over the weekend. Hultgren suggested a small trash compactor that will reduce the frequency of pick-up and cost.

Walton circulated an outline of zero waste communities' strategies for the committee to review and consider. It was suggested inviting the recycling coordinator from Middletown to a future committee to speak about the city's zero waste initiative.

A report was given on the changes at the transfer station. As soon as the newspaper trailer is retrofit with top openings, the transfer station will collect recyclables single stream. Signage is being updated and the place is being tidied up. Staff is working on moving to a cashless system which will involve bringing internet access to the transfer station. Walton reported that the transfer station permit has been amended to allow the collection of up to 110 gallons of waste cooking oil. Richard Parnas, a professor at UConn, has a biodiesel operation where they convert UConn's dining hall waste oil into fuel for the UConn buses and he would be willing to accept oil from the transfer station. The new transfer station supervisor is amenable to this idea and will be meeting with Parnas to work out the logistics of collection and delivery. Roberts suggested "Turn in your cooking oil to run UConn buses" as a way to publicize this effort.

Walton reported that in November the dumpster pilot expanded to a third location at Knollwood Apartments. The apartment managers distributed a flyer to residents about the pilot at the time the dumpster was placed in Knollwood. Walton took pre-pilot and post-pilot measurements, sorting out recyclables from trash in the trash dumpster. In both samplings of 10 to 15 bags each, the amount of recyclables mixed in the trash was 46% to 44% of the weight. Walton will take another measurement to confirm the findings.

Mr. DeBoer, an owner of several apartment houses, requested that the weekly collection of the 2 cubic yard trash dumpsters be reduced to every other week at some of his houses. The committee discussed the option of lowering his service to the multi-family can service that is already in place rather than creating a new service. Originally when the Town went out to bid for multi-family service, it was decided not to offer every other week collection out of concerns for cleanliness and odors, particularly during hot weather. Walton will contact DeBoer with the recommendation of using the multi-family can service.

The compost assistant is currently on school break but will be returning this semester on Fridays to work a few hours at the schools. The fishing line recycling containers have been assembled and will be mounted before the opening of fishing season at the fishing spots that were identified at a previous meeting.

Future agenda items include cost estimates for relocating the swap shop, going out to bid for the single family contract and organizing groups for Rid Litter Day. The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator